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Ministry of Forests and Range
Chief Forester's Office

FORT NELSON TIMBER SUPPLY AREA HARVEST INCREASED

VICTORIA – Effective today, the new allowable annual cut for the Fort Nelson timber supply area will be 1.625 million cubic metres, an increase of about eight per cent, chief forester Jim Snetsinger announced.

"This modest increase in the allowable annual cut accounts for harvesting associated with increased oil and gas activity," said Snetsinger. "The increase could also provide opportunities for some small forestry operations in the Fort Nelson area."

The Fort Nelson timber supply area (TSA) is the second largest in British Columbia, covering nearly 9.9 million hectares in the northeastern corner of the province.

The allowable annual cut determination is the third for the Fort Nelson timber supply area under B.C.'s comprehensive timber supply review, and was completed under the Defined Forest Area Management (DFAM) initiative.

Under DFAM, companies licensed to harvest in the timber supply area collaboratively carry out a timber supply analysis at least once every five years. DFAM groups are responsible for collecting data and preparing a data package, completing a timber supply analysis and report, and providing opportunities for public and First Nations review.

Under the timber supply review, the chief forester must determine how much wood can be harvested in each of the province's 37 timber supply areas and 33 tree farm licences at least once every five years. The chief forester can determine new allowable annual cuts in response to abnormal situations, such as the beetle epidemic, or if new information such as the economic viability of some of the pine stands in the TSA significantly alters the assumptions used to make the current determination. The chief forester can also postpone a decision for another five years if a harvest level is not expected to change significantly.

Copies of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination are available on the Ministry of Forests and Range website at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/tsa/tsa08/ or from the Fort Nelson Forest District office or the Northern Interior Forest Region office in Prince George.

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